United Nations A/54/89

General Assembly

Distr.: General
29 April 1999

Original: English

Fifty-fourth session
Item 121 of the preliminary list*
Programme planning

Measures for sectoral, functional and regional bodies to review the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002–2005

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The medium-term plan of the Organization constitutes the principal policy directive of the United Nations. It is a translation of legislative mandates into programmes and subprogrammes, its objectives and strategies to be derived from the policy orientations and goals set by the intergovernmental organs. The medium-term plan serves as a framework for the formulation of the biennial programme budgets within the period covered by the plan.

2. Pursuant to regulation 4.8 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, the programmes and subprogrammes of the proposed medium-term plan are to be reviewed by the relevant sectoral, functional and regional intergovernmental bodies prior to submission to the General Assembly through the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the Economic and Social Council and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

3. The General Assembly, in its resolution 51/219 of 18 December 1996 on programme planning, emphasized the importance of the contribution of the sectoral, regional and central intergovernmental bodies, in particular the Main Committees of the Assembly, in reviewing and improving the quality of the medium-term plan and its revisions. In its resolution 53/207 of 18 December 1998 on programme planning, the Assembly reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to take all appropriate measures, including ad hoc measures, and to submit proposals, through the Committee for Programme and Coordination, to the Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, so as to enable the Main Committees of the Assembly, as well as the sectoral, functional and regional bodies, effectively to review the relevant portions of the medium-term plan or its revisions, with a view to facilitating their consideration by the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Fifth Committee.

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4. The proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002–2005 is scheduled for consideration and approval by the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session. Instructions for the preparation of the medium-term plan have been issued to programme managers and, pursuant to the above-mentioned resolutions of the General Assembly, programme managers have been requested to consult their respective specialized intergovernmental bodies so that by the time the Committee for Programme and Coordination receives, at its fortieth session, in 2000, the proposed medium-term plan, it will have texts that have incorporated the views of those intergovernmental bodies. The recommendations of the Committee will then be transmitted through the Economic and Social Council to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session. In accordance with established procedures, the Chairman of the Fifth Committee will seek the views of the Main Committees on the proposed medium-term plan for 2002–2005 prior to adoption by the Assembly.

5. Because of the scheduling of the meetings of sectoral, regional and central intergovernmental bodies, some programme managers will have submitted the relevant portions of the proposed medium-term plan to those bodies during 1999. The comments and views of those bodies will be taken into account when the Secretary-General finalizes the proposed medium-term plan for submission to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its fortieth session. Some other portions of the proposed medium-term plan will not be submitted to intergovernmental bodies until early 2000. Every effort will be made to ensure that the views of those bodies are taken into account prior to submission of the proposed medium-term plan to the Committee when it meets in June 2000; should the scheduling of the meetings not permit the timely incorporation of the views of those intergovernmental bodies in the Secretary-General's proposals, the views of those bodies will be made available to the Committee at the time of its consideration of the Secretary-General's proposals.

6. The measures taken by the Secretary-General to submit proposals to the relevant intergovernmental bodies and the schedule of reviews appear in the annex to the present report. It is noted that there is no special review for subprogrammes 1.1 to 1.4 of programme 1, Political affairs, or for programme 6, Legal affairs. In the context of its review of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the Economic and Social Council will review subprogrammes 7.1 and 7.7 of programme 7, Economic and Social Affairs; programme 8, Africa: New Agenda for Development; and programme 20, Humanitarian assistance, which are also not reviewed by specialized intergovernmental bodies.

7. **The General Assembly may wish to take note of the present report.**

Annex

Proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002–2005

Programme/subprogramme	*Department/office responsible*	*Specialized intergovernmental body*	*Dates of meeting/comments*
1. **Political affairs**	Department of Political Affairs		
Subprogramme 1.1 Prevention, control and resolution of conflicts			With respect to subprogrammes 1.1,1.2 and 1.3, there is no specialized intergovernmental body that reviews the medium-term plan. With respect to subprogramme 1.4, Security Council affairs, the Council does not review the Department's objectives or work plans.
Subprogramme 1.2 Assistance and support to the Secretary-General in the political aspects of his relations with Member States			
Subprogramme 1.3 Electoral assistance			
Subprogramme 1.4 Security Council affairs			
Subprogramme 1.5 Decolonization		Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	The draft medium-term plan will be submitted at the meeting of the Committee in June–July 1999.
Subprogramme 1.6 Question of Palestine		Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People	The draft medium-term plan will be submitted by November 1999.
2. **Disarmament**	Department for Disarmament Affairs	Disarmament Commission	The draft medium-term plan was submitted to the Commission at its 1999 substantive session in April–May.
3. **Peacekeeping operations**	Department of Peacekeeping Operations	Special Committee for Peacekeeping	The draft medium-term plan will be submitted to the Committee in March–April 2000.
4. **Peaceful uses of outer space**	Office for Outer Space Affairs	Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	Although the Committee will be meeting from 14 to 16 July 1999, it will be considering the report of UNISPACE III, after which the proposed medium-term plan will be prepared. It is intended to have a draft ready for review by the Committee's Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in February 2000, since the Committee will not be meeting again until June 2000.
5. **Legal Affairs**	Office of Legal Affairs		No special review, but the programme will fully reflect the requirements of the role that the Secretariat plays in support of the International Law Commission and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law.

Programme/subprogramme	*Department/office responsible*	*Specialized intergovernmental body*	*Dates of meeting/comments*
6. **General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference services**	Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services	Committee on Conferences	The proposed medium-term plan will be circulated to members of the Committee on Conferences in mid–July 1999.
7. **Economic and Social Affairs**	Department of Economic and Social Affairs		
Subprogramme 7.1 Economic and Social Council support and coordination			The draft medium-term plan will be submitted directly to the Committee for Programme and Coordination. The Economic and Social Council may consider this subprogramme at its substantive session in 2000 together with the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Secretary-General's proposals for the whole medium-term plan.
Subprogramme 7.2 Gender issues and advancement of women		Commission on the Status of Women	Forty-fourth session, March 2000.
Subprogramme 7.3 Social policy and development		Commission for Social Development	Thirty-eighth session, February 2000.
Subprogramme 7.4 Sustainable development		Commission on Sustainable Development	Eighth session, April 2000.
Subprogramme 7.5 Statistics		Statistical Commission	Thirty-first session, February–March 2000.
Subprogramme 7.6 Population		Commission on Population and Development	Thirty-third session, March 2000.
Subprogramme 7.7 Global development trends, issues and policies			The draft medium-term plan will be submitted directly to the Committee for Programme and Coordination. The Economic and Social Council may consider this subprogramme at its substantive session in 2000 together with the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Secretary-General's proposals for the whole medium-term plan.
Subprogramme 7.8 Public administration, finance and development		Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance	May 2000.
8. **Africa: New Agenda for Development**	Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries		The draft medium-term plan will be submitted directly to the Committee for Programme and Coordination. The Economic and Social Council may consider this programme at its substantive session in 2000 together with the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Secretary-General's proposals for the whole medium-term plan.

Programme/subprogramme	*Department/office responsible*	*Specialized intergovernmental body*	*Dates of meeting/comments*
9. **Trade and development**	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	Working Party of UNCTAD	The draft medium-term plan will be presented to the meeting of the Working Party Scheduled to take place before the end of March 2000, after the tenth session of UNCTAD, to be held from 10 to 20 February 2000.
	International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (ITC)	Joint Advisory Group on ITC	Autumn 1999.
10. **Environment**	United Nations Environment Programme	Committee of Permanent Representatives and High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials	The draft medium-term plan will be submitted to the fourth Meeting of the High-level Committee of Ministers and Officials in August 1999.
11. **Human Settlements**	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements	Commission on Human Settlements	The draft medium-term plan will not be ready at the time of the Commission's seventeenth session, to be held from 5 to 14 May 1999. Since the eighteenth session is scheduled to be held in 2001, the Centre will ensure that member States are consulted individually and are in a position to provide comments through the regular meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in Nairobi.
12. **Crime prevention and criminal justice**	Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention	Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice	April–May 2000.
13. **International drug control**	Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention	International Narcotics Control Board	Sixty-seventh session, 1 to 18 November 1999.
		Commission on Narcotic Drugs	Forty-second session, 2 and 3 December 1999.
14. **Economic and social development in Africa**	Economic Commission for Africa	Follow-up Committee of the Conference of Ministers responsible for Economic and Social Development and Planning	April–May 2000.
15. **Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific**	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)	Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (ACPR)	In December 1999 ACPR will be in a position to review the overall medium-term plan of ESCAP for 2002–2005. The secretariat also intends to circulate the draft medium-term plan to those members and associate member Governments which are not represented in ACPR in order to ensure that their needs and views will be properly reflected in the proposed medium-term plan.
16. **Economic development in Europe**	Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)	ECE Group of Experts on the Programme of Work	November 1999.

Programme/subprogramme	*Department/office responsible*	*Specialized intergovernmental body*	*Dates of meeting/comments*
17. **Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean**	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)	**Commission (April–May 2000)**	ECLAC will be consulting with member States on two courses of action during the next meeting of the ad hoc working group open to the participation of all ECLAC member States to be convened in New York in June–July 1999, namely, whether to convene another meeting of the ad hoc working group in New York devoted fully to the review of the draft medium-term plan or whether to have the draft reviewed in the capitals of ECLAC member States and then process the written comments and incorporate them in the draft before finalization for the Committee for Programme and Coordination.
18. **Economic and social development in Western Asia**	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)	**Ministerial session of the Commission and its Technical Committee**	The draft medium-term plan for ESCWA will be submitted to the Commission at its twentieth session, to be held on 27 and 28 May 1999, and will take into account the Beirut Declaration presenting a vision for the ESCWA region for the next millennium, which will also be considered and adopted at that session.
19. **Human rights**	United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	**Commission on Human Rights**	The draft medium-term plan will be submitted to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session, to be held in March–April 2000.
20. **Humanitarian assistance**	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs		The draft medium-term plan will be submitted directly to the Committee for Programme and Coordination. The Economic and Social Council may consider this programme at its substantive session in 2000 together with the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Secretary-General's proposals for the whole medium-term plan.
21. **Protection and assistance to refugees**	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	**UNHCR Standing Committee**	The draft medium-term plan will be submitted to the Standing Committee in October 1999.
22. **Palestinian refugees**	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)	**Advisory Commission**	UNRWA reports directly to the General Assembly. Overall review of UNRWA programmes and activities is undertaken by the 10-member Advisory Commission, which includes representatives of the Agency's major donors and host Governments.
23. **Public information**	Department of Public Information	**Committee on Information**	The draft medium-term plan will be submitted to the Committee at its twenty-first session, to be held from 3 to 14 May 1999.

Programme/subprogramme	*Department/office responsible*	*Specialized intergovernmental body*	*Dates of meeting/comments*
24. **Management and central support services**	Department of Management		The draft medium-term plan will be submitted directly to the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly at the fifty-fifth session.
25. **Internal oversight**	Office for Internal Oversight Services		The draft medium-term plan will be submitted directly to the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly at the fifty-fifth session.